

Iran in a Week

Amid deliberations between President Donald Trump and his secretary of war over a potential confrontation with Iran involving its nuclear and missile programs and the Strait of Hormuz, developments inside Iran this week offer a revealing picture of the country's domestic position. Signs of possible US preparations for a surprise strike, potentially encouraged by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have heightened the pressure. President

Masoud Pezeshkian has sought to address economic difficulties while emphasizing that economic policies must incorporate social considerations, signaling a broader "reformist" agenda. Meanwhile, Major General Mohsen Rezaei warned Trump that Iran defines reality through its people, soldiers and missiles. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf likewise declared that the era of unilateral US demands was over. Economic uncertainty deepened after

Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh warned of an imminent financial collapse, only for his ministry to deny the remarks. Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad then resigned, while Pezeshkian nominated aerospace industry specialist Mehrdad Akhlaghi as defense minister, underscoring Tehran's growing emphasis on military preparedness.

News

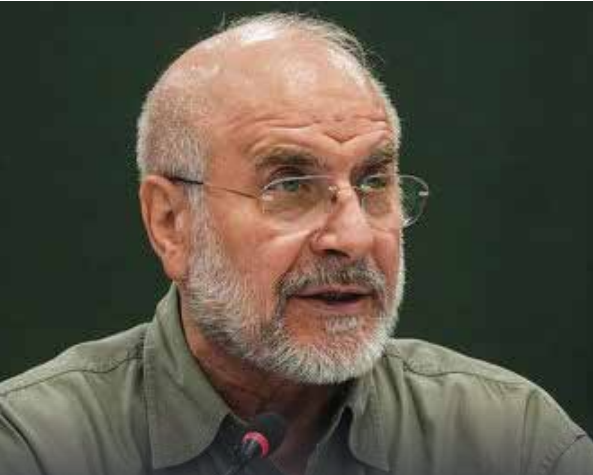
Politics:



Deputy Speaker of Parliament Hamid Reza Haji-Babaei: "We will never reach an understanding with the United States. To achieve a result, we must have major power."



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi: "The American side has expressed its views on the seven-day plan. These views are being reviewed domestically in accordance with the process underway, and once Iran's final position is ready, it will be announced through official channels."



Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf: "As long as our seven conditions have not been met, the Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened. We are negotiating and fighting at the same time."



Deputy Chairman of the Parliament's Article 90 Commission Hossein-Ali Haji-Deligani: "We must take control of the UAE, and this can be done easily."



Ruhollah Mousavi Bidali, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board: "In addition to opening new fronts across the region, if the United States launches any new attack, we will use missiles against that country for the first time, in a move that will astonish everyone."



Mohammad Saeed Ahadian, an adviser to the Parliament speaker: "Iran has so far kept Oman outside its target list, but this approach could change in the next conflict."

Security and Military:



Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia, spokesman for the Iranian Army: "We reached a conclusion during this war that we must increase the range of our missiles, and we are now moving in that direction. This applies to all of our missiles."



Tasnim News Agency: "Armed terrorists attacked a patrol from the Nukjo police station in Iranshahr, Sistan and Balochistan Province, killing two police officers."



Branch 23 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran has sentenced three citizens from Kermanshah to death. They were among those arrested during last January's protests on charges of moharebeh ("waging war against God").



Public Relations Office of the Quds Headquarters of the IRGC Ground Forces: "An IRGC member was killed after a roadside bomb exploded in Sistan and Balochistan Province."

Society and Culture:



Secretary of the National Population Headquarters Morziyeh Vahid Dastjerdi: "In 2010, around 900,000 marriages were registered. In 2025, that figure fell to 431,000 marriages, meaning the number of marriages has been cut in half. The fertility rate has also declined by 0.1% annually."



Molavi Abdolhamid, Sunni Friday prayer leader and imam in Zahedan: "The economy has been left to its fate, and the ethnic and sectarian government is irresponsible. Many families are unable to cover their living expenses."



Ibrahim Hajiani, former director of the Iranian Students Polling Agency (ISPA): "In a survey conducted in 2003 or 2004, around 8% of respondents wanted radical changes. That figure has now risen to around 67%."

Economy:



The US dollar has surpassed 270,000 tomans in Iran's free market.



Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh warned in his comprehensive report to the Economic Council of an imminent financial collapse of the state, saying that the maximum endurance threshold is 30 days.



Brigadier General Hossein Rahimi, head of the Economic Security Police: "The volume of goods smuggling in Iran exceeds \$30 billion, and this has resulted in tens of thousands of workers losing their jobs."

The Region and the World:



Forty-six countries issued a joint statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council condemning the continued executions in Iran and the rising number of death sentences being issued and carried out in the country.



Hannah Neumann, a member of the European Parliament and chair of its Delegation for Relations with Iran, announced in a letter that she had rejected a request from the Iranian embassy in France to meet with Ambassador Mohammad Amin-Nejad.



The US State Department announced a reward of up to \$15 million for information on three senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officials: Ali Asghar Nowruz, Abdollah Mehrabi and Ahmad Jafari-Abadi.

Editorials

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Arman Emrooz



What Does "Listening to the People's Voice" Really Mean?
A fundamental question has always arisen when examining the relationship between the state and society: What exactly does "listening to the people's voice" mean, and when can it genuinely be claimed that this voice has reached the ears of those in power? What people see on the ground is a deep gulf between their aspirations and the actual performance of institutions. The roots of public discontent must be sought primarily in the economic situation. The unequal distribution of subsidies is also a factor contributing to dissatisfaction. Politically, the disqualification of some activists and "reformists" has narrowed the electoral arena to certain political currents. This discontent appears likely to persist as long as there remains a gap between slogans about supporting and standing alongside the people and the actual performance of institutions.

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Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper



Failed Central Bank Policy
In recent days, we have witnessed various promises and justifications from the Central Bank governor regarding efforts to control the foreign exchange rate. The governor was replaced for this very purpose, so that he could stabilize the exchange rate and even bring it down. What actually happened, however, was that the market saw no sign of any stabilization in the currency rate; instead, it witnessed a sharp increase. If the Central Bank fails to address the sources of the disruption in the foreign exchange market, the decline in supply, and the other factors that have destabilized the market, the rise in the exchange rate could gradually spread to other markets and eventually affect the price of every commodity.

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Setar-e Sobh Newspaper



The Facts Speak for Themselves
I do not know where Iran ranks among the world's powers, nor do I know what criteria are used for such a ranking. Possessing defensive capabilities in this disorderly world is commendable; but the poverty and deprivation of citizens, and the corruption that eats away at social bonds like termites eating through wood, are reprehensible. We are trapped in a web of difficulties, dilemmas and problems, and political skill does not lie in insisting on continuing with the methods currently in use. Rather, the true skill of a politician lies in finding a way to curb the broad and escalating crises we face today. The truth is that the Iranian people's tables are growing increasingly bare. It is impossible to speak of Iran possessing great power while ignoring the migration of the middle class and its descent into the lower strata of society. The facts are too stark to be concealed beneath slogans.

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Shargh



Why Is the Minority's Voice Louder Than That of the Majority?
Those who block the path of diplomacy have a far greater influence today than others because they stand in the way of consensus and de-escalation at a time when the country needs both more than ever. The obvious question is: Who bears the cost of continuing along this path? Its architects and planners, both abroad and at home, do not bear the burden of inflation; their salaries are not eroded by inflation exceeding 80%; they do not face the risk of bankruptcy; their homes are not destroyed; and their children do not suffer from uncertainty over their employment prospects. Those who actually pay the price are workers, retirees, employees, farmers, people who have lost their money and residents of war-affected areas.